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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No. 2

pp. 1480 - 2193

68516

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
Reference:-					
FO 371 68516					
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E

E 1480

2

1948

PALESTINE

2 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1480/2/31

Berlin

0564

Basie

31 Jan

2 Feb.

Last Paper.

1409

References.

68516

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1508

'Nazi' Fears.

Various Jewish Voluntary Agencies after
discussion are unanimous in their opinion that
the 'Nazi' Fears could not be persuaded to
go to work voluntarily either for the Occupation
Administration or for German employers. Any
attempt to do so would result in considerable
costs.

(Minutes.)

Para. 4 is worth noting with
independent information from
B.L. [unclear]
Feb. 3

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E

E 1500

4

PALESTINE

3 FEB 1943

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1508/2/81

276

Report of Penn. H. S.
 copy of letter from which taken is N.Y.
 Standard, of 24 Feb. now in possession
 before me of the Penn. H. S. While not
 shown to me it goes over and is done
 but not copy is required in new form
 and copy.

Last Paper.

1480

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

I don't think we need dissent from the Colonial Secretary's conclusions. As regards point (1) ^{para. 3 of} Mr. Roberts' minute of Jan 24 in E 1357, it will be seen from the C.O. letter that these ships, having been "cajoled" into Cyprus and not seized in Palestine waters, are not subject to confiscation (see penultimate para. of Col. Sec.'s letter.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1555

Dr. J. Geins
Feb. 3
(BEITH)

L.F.L. Pyman
3/2

PTZ. Smorav
3.2
MTH 4.2.

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COLONIAL OFFICE,
CHURCH HOUSE,
GREAT SMITH STREET, S.W.1.

3 FEB 1948

Eastern Dept.

CMCA
30/1

With the Compliments of the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

29th January, 1948.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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76021/54/48 Pal.

29th January, 1948.

6

We considered the other day whether the PAI YONG and PAN CRESCENT, illegal immigrant ships of 4,570 gross registered tons each, now lying at anchor in Cyprus waters, might usefully be employed to assist the evacuation from Palestine.

The present position is that the Jewish Agency (who seem to be in a position to speak for the Panamanian company who are the nominal owners) would be prepared to take over these vessels when released from detention and to use them for clearing the Cyprus camps when the time comes. As there will almost certainly be some 50,000 Jews to move from Cyprus between the 15th of May and the 1st of August, and as the Agency will not find it easy to acquire such suitable ships from other sources, this seems to me to be a scheme that we ought not to discourage. After we spoke, I found in fact that our Delegation at Lake Success had been told the previous day that the United Nations Commission should be informed that we were prepared to release these ships from detention for operation by the Jewish Agency after the 15th of May.

The Colonial Office have discussed with the Ministry of Transport the possible use of the vessels for other purposes between now and the time for clearance of the Cyprus camps. I understand that, from a practical point of view, the proposition is not a very attractive one in that the vessels would require extensive refit to bring them up to the standard required for our troopships, a refit which would probably not be completed in time to make any contribution to an accelerated evacuation. Further, I understand that the present shipping arrangement will allow of a certain speeding up of the originally planned rate of evacuation of personnel.

The Right Honourable
A.V. Alexander, C.B., E.C.

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The legal position also is one of difficulty. The PAI ORSCOBENT and PAI YORK have been detained in Cyprus, so that the Governor has adequate powers to hold them in custody for an indefinite period. I am advised however that there can be no question of declaring the vessels forfeit. Should the Governor require to use the vessels he would have to take powers to requisition them; these powers however would not be legally adequate to cover the use of the ships outside Cyprus territorial waters. Any compensation to the Panamanian owners would involve dollar expenditure.

(sgd) A. CREECH JONES.

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E

E 155

PALESTINE

4 FEB 1948

Registry Number E1555/2/31

FROM Wash. J. Co.

Chancery & E. D. V.

No. G. 241-148

Dated 26 Jan

Received in Registry 11 Feb.

Illegal Immigration: Suwanee Hunt & Stearns
CompanyRe: Washington letter of Jan 8
(E 615/2/31) Enclosure copy of letter from
Suwanee Hunt & Stearns Company dated Jan 21
regarding Honduras registry of SS "PARIS ISLAND"
"BEDLOW" & "JACKSON" Honduras & company
have been informed that H.A.C. have no objection.

Last Paper.

E 1502 (E 615)

References.

(Minutes.)

NA. Dept. 11/2

Copy (CO))
MIS) usual
names

JB Feb 4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Nizam. 80.
1, Rubenian. MIS
✓ Feb 10th

(Action completed.)

9 Feb 12/2

(Index.)

24 Feb 1948

Next Paper.

E 1597

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68516

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BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

26th January 1948

4 FEB 1948

Ref: G24/-/48

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Department,

Please refer to our letter G24/-/48 of the 8th January about Honduran registry for ships belonging to the Suwannee Fruit & Steamship Company.

2. We enclose a further letter which our Vice Consul at Jacksonville has passed to us from this company, concerning Honduran registry for three more ships. After discussing the matter here we have informed the Honduran Embassy in Washington that there is no objection from our point of view. We still have no evidence that any ships owned by this company have been engaged in the illegal immigration traffic.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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FO 371 68516

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C O P Y

SUWANNEE FRUIT & STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Foot Catherine Street,
Jacksonville 1, Florida.

January 21, 1948

Mr. F.J. White
British Vice Consul
Barnett Bldg.
Jacksonville, Florida.

Dear Mr. White:

We recently purchased three Coast Guard cutters
from the U.S. Maritime Commission, and would like to
transfer them to Honduras registry. They are as follows:

PARRIS ISLAND (AG-72) (ex-PCE-901)
870 tons deadweight
Length 184'6", Width 33', Depth 9'

BEDLOW (WPC-121) (PCE(R)-860)
870 tons deadweight
Length 184'6", Width 33'2", Depth 9'6"

JACKSON (WPC-120) (ex-PCE(R)-858)
870 tons deadweight
Length 184'6", Width 33'2", Depth 9'6"

We plan to use these ships in the transporting of
bananas and general cargo in the West Indies. Should they
be used outside the Western Hemisphere, we will advise
your people in order that your interests will be protected.

Since you are thoroughly familiar with our operations,
we will appreciate it greatly if you will telephone your
Ambassador in Washington, at our expense, asking that
approval be given for transferring these ships to Honduras
registry. In view of our past relationship, we feel quite
sure that your government will offer no objections to
placing these ships under Honduran flag.

Thanking you, we are

Yours very truly,
SUWANNEE FRUIT & STEAMSHIP CO.
(Sgd) M. Sefton
Secretary to Mr. Lovett

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E

10

E 1637

PALESTINE

5 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

Last Paper.

15-94

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

899.P
Feb 5

(Action completed.)

(Index

Next Paper.

1638

[illegible]

(Minutes.)

Action taken by News Dept.

S. Sept 9th 17/2

JD Rh. 14

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68516

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Code R

DIPLOMATIC DISTRIBUTION

FROM SOFIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sterndale Bennett.
No. 161.

D: 10.33 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

4th February, 1948.

R: 11.58 a.m. 4th February, 1948.

IMPORTANT

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 113.

Illegal immigration into Palestine.

Note delivered dated January 31st. First 13 paragraphs follow text of draft enclosed in Chancery letter No. 27/14/48 of January 17th to Southern Department. Remainder reads as follows:

[Begins]

14. Two ships are understood to have left Bourgas on December 27th. Like the Paducah and the Northland they proceeded direct towards Palestine. They were intercepted by British Naval vessels as they were about to enter Palestinian waters carrying in all 15,256 passengers. It has been established that all these passengers embarked at Bourgas.

15. In face of all the warnings and requests for collaboration recapitulated above and of the obvious fact that a mass movement of Jews was afoot, the Bulgarian Government cannot fairly claim that they had no reason to question the genuine nature of any travel documents proffered by persons endeavouring to embark in the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York". There are moreover numerous precedents for mass moves of this kind to Palestine (the traffic has received world-wide publicity) but there is not one precedent for such a movement to Panama. Furthermore His Majesty's Government have reason to believe that passengers were not in possession of regular passports when they entered Bulgaria but that their names figured on collective lists. His Majesty's Government believe also that there is no Panamanian representative in the countries from which passengers originated who is authorised to issue visas, at all events without reference to the Panamanian Government - a step which would have exposed at once the illegal movement.

16. It is difficult therefore to suppose that the Bulgarian Government were ignorant of the real nature and purpose of these Jews who were aiming to break the laws of Palestine.

17. It is equally difficult to suppose that the Bulgarian Government were ignorant of the United Nations' appeal for

/avoidance

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avoidance of any action likely to exacerbate the critical situation in Palestine and to precipitate an Arab-Jewish conflict. I am instructed to point out the implication in Your Excellency's note of January 10th that the action of the Bulgarian Government in this matter had been described in my letter of December 27th as an infringement of the United Nations Charter is entirely without foundation and is therefore irrelevant. While His Majesty's Government reserved the right to deal separately if necessary with Your Excellency's further remarks about non-admission of Bulgaria into the United Nations, they decline to be drawn into discussion of that subject in the present connexion. Your Excellency's note of January 10th does not deny the incontestable fact, stated in my letter of December 27th, that illegal immigration traffic on scale planned in the Pan Crescent and Pan York was particularly reprehensible at a moment when the United Nations had made their recommendations for the future of Palestine, and negotiations for the transfer of authority were about to begin. In any case, if Bulgaria aspires to membership of the United Nations, His Majesty's Government feel bound to suggest that the Bulgarian Government would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the activities of that organisation and with the obligations which its members are called upon to undertake.

10. From the evidence available, His Majesty's Government can only conclude that in the four cases the "Paducah" the "Northland" and the "Pan York" and the "Pan Crescent" the Bulgarian Government have either been deliberately conniving at illegal immigration traffic or that a serious error has been committed by the Bulgarian officials concerned. In the latter case they trust that active and effective steps will be taken by the Bulgarian Government to prevent any further despatch from Bulgarian territory and ports of persons who may be endeavouring to enter Palestine illegally.

I avail myself etc. [Ends]

Confirmation copy follows by bag.

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E

E 1030

13

1948

PALESTINE

5 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

E1118/2/51

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

11111111

Dated

11/11/48

Received
in Registry

11/11/48

11/11/48

11/11/48

11/11/48

Last Paper.

1657

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 9.9.48

Feb 5. 1948

(Action
completed.)

J. J. 11/11/48

(Index)

24/4/48

Next Paper.

1658

(Minutes.)

This has received the standard
Illegal Immigration Ctee. distribution.
The Working Party will consider
it and may have suggestions
for action. At the moment I
don't think there is anything
we can usefully do. Sofia
have of course discretion to
make representations if they
think it will do any good.

These two contingents
look like being fighting men.
The Navy are looking forward
to trying to stop them.

Southern Dept. J.P. 9/2
NA. Dept.
24/4/48

D. J. 11/11/48
Feb. 6

30471 F.O.P.

11/11/48

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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112

E

E 1659

PALESTINE

5 FEB 1948

Registry
Number E1659/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. 411111111

Dated

Received
in Registry168
416

11/9/47 [unclear]
R/ [unclear] 11/2/47 [unclear] [unclear] part of
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Last Paper.

1688

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 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16

No.168	D.10.10 a.m. 5th February, 1948
4th February, 1948	R.10.55 a.m. 5th February, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No.113. Illegal immigration into Palestine.

2. The letter then draws his attention to report which has just reached us that further contingent of about 1500 Bulgarian Jews is being collected in Bulgaria for despatch immediately to Palestine from a Bulgarian or Roumanian port. In view of reported imminent departure the letter asks that without awaiting result of enquiries which the Minister will no doubt wish to make into this report he will ensure that all possible precautionary measures are taken to prevent departure of any such contingent.

3. Since sending above letter I have received further information (see my telegram No.167); its reliability is difficult to assess and I cannot in any case pass it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs without endangering the source. I have however sent him oral message that I understand that part of contingent may be leaving Sofia tonight and that port of embarkation is thought to be Bourgas.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos. 45 and 24 respectively.

[Repeated to Washington and United Kingdom Delegation
New York].

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FO 371 / 68516

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6 FEB 1948

1-11-1945

*Registry
Number*

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

Last Paper.

1666

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index)

Next Paper.

1746

(Minutes.)

to Feb. 6

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reference:-
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No.

HIS Majesty's Minister at Panama
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British Legation,

Panama.

16th January, 1948.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office Tel. No. 10 dated 16-1-1948.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

Minister for Foreign
Relations.
16th January 1948.

Jewish illegal
immigration.

3479A 25019-2 (4)

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Cypher/OTP

E 1791

7 FEB 1948

FROM BUCHAREST TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Sarell. D. 4.05.p.m. February 6th, 1948.
No. 166.
February 6th, 1948. R. 4.42.p.m. February 6th, 1948.

Repeated to Sofia,
Jerusalem.
Angora.
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean,
Malta,
B.M.E.O. Cairo.

IMMEDIATE.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 166 of February 6th, repeated for information to Sofia, Jerusalem, Angora, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean, Malta and British Middle East Office Cairo.

SECRET.

Sofia telegram No. 167.

There is evidence to confirm Sofia reports of Bulgarian concentrations of illegal Jewish immigrants waiting for embarkation for Palestine. There are persistent rumours that another 600 immigrants will leave from Roumania and join other groups waiting in Bulgaria.

2. For the time being, however, there is no ship in Roumanian waters engaged in this traffic except the M.V. Meropi (see my telegram No. 115) which is held up through the arrest of Marcu Syngros who was handling the [grp.undec.] for a Jewish group.

Foreign Office please repeat to Jerusalem, Angora Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Malta and B.M.E.O. Cairo as my telegrams Nos. 33, 10, 6, 4 and 4 respectively.

[Repeated to Angora and British Middle East Office Cairo and copies sent to Middle East Secretariat and to War Registry Admiralty for retransmission to Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Malta.]

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FO 371 68516

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E

E 1802

22

PALESTINE

9 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 1802/2/31

Egypt

Washington

268/11/48

21 Jan

9 Feb

Illegal Immigration Italy
 Refer to letter (E 1802/12/31) in relation of the
 ATAC in connection of Illegal Immigration -
 Italy. This has been matter up with State Dept
 who have informed that they have asked the
 Ambassador in Rome for a formal report on the
 situation.

Last Paper.

1791

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

9 Rome NO 1
 ref 369/5647/10-1
 Feb 1948

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

5/6/10/2

5/6/10/2

Next Paper

1817

(Minutes.)

Copy ~~undistributed~~
 report to Rome re ke.
 JB Feb. 10

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E 1002

9 FEB 1948

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8. D. C.

31st January, 1948

Ref: 268/11/48
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Department,

Please refer to your letter E 11961/48/31 of the 7th January about the activities of the American Joint Distribution Committee in regard to the organization of illegal Jewish immigration in Italy.

2. We have taken this up with the State Department, who have informed us that they have asked their Ambassador in Rome for a general report on the situation and they have told us that they would prefer to await his reply before giving us their answer. It might be helpful if H.M. Ambassador in Rome were to bring his U.S. colleague up to date on the implication of the American Joint Distribution Committee in this traffic.

Yours ever,

Chancery

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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distinctions we might suggest that the Information Counselor should draw correspondents' attention to these shiploads, and should give them all the information he has on the subject, without making specific allegations.

Showse.

(P. Follows) 16

h.c.h.
16/2.

Lape. I have seen nothing
to suggest deliberate infiltration,
yet I hesitate to accept this as
final evidence. Somehow one
balks at the notion that the
Russians, experienced & thorough
as they have proved themselves to
be at these tactics, have made no
use of such obvious material as
the would-be immigrants.

On the other hand they may consider that, as a channel of entry into Palestine, this route is a 'chancy' one; that the immigrants are already being selected on the right lines without their interference; and that they can exert their influence through agents already in the country when the successful ones arrive.

J. K. Jensen 7/3

alt. Chaney
Angora

Frank P. West

C. West Bump

F.B.B. Dadds

Adults

~~Not~~ Mar 191

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1 agree generally. 29
Draft hd.

2500
Feb. 19

3 agree

Stamp out
2111

L. E. L. Pyman
21/2

GAB Simon

21.2

~~Present~~

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E 1817

9 FEB 1948

26

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Campbell D. 8.05 p.m. 7th February, 1948
No. 172
6th February, 1948. R. 8.54 p.m. 7th February, 1948

Repeated to Istanbul
Angora
Bucharest
Jerusalem
Washington
U.K. Delegation New York.

*Rapid to Sofia
JB Feb 19*

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 172 of February 6th repeated for information to Istanbul, Angora, Bucharest Jerusalem, Washington and U.K. Delegation New York.

Sofia telegram No. 167 to Foreign Office.

It would be very useful from public standpoint here if when ships reach Turkey, Reuters and Associated [gp. undec. ? News] Agency correspondents were to give story in messages to head offices emphasising how Russians have hand-picked these young Jews for specific purpose of infiltration into the Middle East. It is unfortunate that ships [gp. undec.] alleged to be American but agency messages could perhaps avoid reference to this.

2. If you agree you will doubtless instruct His Majesty's Ambassador at Angora to take necessary steps through his Information Counsellor.

Foreign Office please pass to Bucharest, Washington and U.K. Delegation New York as my telegrams Nos. 9, 7 and 1 respectively.

[Repeated to Bucharest, Washington and U.K. Delegation New York].

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FO 371/68516

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Registry
No. E.1817/2/31.

~~SECRET~~
Secret.
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~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

J.G.S.S.

CYPHER

19th February 1948

Despatched M.

Draft.

SECRET.

ANGORA.

Addressed to Angora telegram No. 130 of February 21st repeated for information to Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Washington, U.K. Delegation New York, Bucharest and Sofia.

Cairo telegram No. 172 of February 6th; Jewish Illegal Immigration.

It will be most useful if, in the case of these two ships and of any other illegal immigrant ships which may pass the Straits, you or our staff in Istanbul can secure firm ~~Corroborative~~ ~~correlative~~ evidence of the information reported in Sofia telegram No. 167. I suggest that the Turkish authorities might be willing to help in a matter of this kind, especially as we are no longer pressing them to take action to stop these illegal immigrant ships.

2. The line taken by your Information Office must depend on the strength of our evidence. It is undesirable to make specific allegations on the lines of Cairo telegram No. 172 unless they can be backed up with ~~the necessary~~ evidence.

The Information Counsellor should, however, in any case draw correspondent's attention to these two ships, if and when they arrive, and should give them all the information available to him on the subject without making specific allegations which cannot be substantiated.

[Copies sent to Mr. Secretary]

MILL

Telegram.

No. 130
(Date) Feb 21/48

Repeat to :

Istanbul 13
Cairo 294
Jerusalem 2107
Washington 2107
U.K. Delegation
New York 821
Bucharest 196
Sofia 197

News Dept.
Inf. Policy Dept.
Southern Dept.
Northern Dept.
on 1.3.48
Feb. 19

For Circ.
Cypher.

Distribution :

Departmental

Copies to :-

I.I.P.

L.F.L. Pyman

21/2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FO 371 68516

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Cypher/OTP
E 1817/2/51
Secret

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ANGORA

No. 150 D. 4.40 p.m. 21st February, 1948
21st February, 1948

Repeated to Istanbul No. 13
Cairo No. 294
Jerusalem
Washington No. 2107
United Kingdom Delegation New York No. 821
Bucharest No. 196
Sofia No. 197

SECRET

Addressed to Angora telegram No. 150 of 21st February, repeated for information to Istanbul, Cairo, Jerusalem, Washington, United Kingdom Delegation New York, Bucharest and Sofia.

Cairo telegram No. 172 of 6th February; Jewish Illegal Immigration].

It will be most useful if, in the case of these two ships and of any other illegal immigrant ships which may pass the Straits, you or our staff in Istanbul can secure firm corroborative evidence of the information reported in Sofia telegram No. 167. I suggest that the Turkish authorities might be willing to help in a matter of this kind, especially as we are no longer pressing them to take action to stop these illegal immigrant ships.

2. The line taken by your Information Office must depend on the strength of our evidence. It is undesirable to make specific allegations on the lines of Cairo telegram No. 172 unless they can be backed up with the necessary evidence. The Information Counsellor should however, in any case draw correspondent's attention to these two ships, if and when they arrive, and should give them all the information available to him on the subject without making specific allegations which cannot be substantiated.

[Copies sent to Middle East Secretariat].

PPP

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FO 371 68516					
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Registry
No. E1817/2/31

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

JG:SB

Draft.

Chancery, Ankara

from

Eastern Dept.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Copy Adhy.
(Mr Dodds)

N.P. In this latter case
the embarrassing question
of what to do with the
passengers would not
arise.

25/11
pw
29
~~26th February~~ 1948.
14 March

Dear Chancery,

Our telegram No.130 of February 21 about
the movement of Jewish illegal immigrant ships
through the Straits.

The last sentence of the first paragraph
of our telegram pointed out that we were "no
longer pressing the Turkish authorities to take
action to stop these illegal immigration ships".
We should not like you to think that this
general statement means that we have abandoned
the hope of persuading the Turks to stop *any*
suspect ships in all circumstances. We do not
expect the Turks to stop fully loaded illegal
immigrant ships leaving the Black Sea; but if we
learnt of a suspect ship without proper regis-
tration which proposed to enter the Black Sea
to fetch illegal immigrants, we might very well
wish to try and get the Turkish authorities to
stop her entering the Black Sea on the ground
that she was a flagless vessel.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

JB Feb. 26

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20

1st March, 1948.

(1817/2/31)

Confidential.

Dear Chancery,

Our telegram No. 130 of 21st February about the movement of Jewish illegal immigrant ships through the Straits.

The last sentence of the first paragraph of our telegram pointed out that we were "no longer pressing the Turkish authorities to take action to stop these illegal immigration ships". We should not like you to think that this general statement means that we have abandoned the hope of persuading the Turks to stop any suspect ships in all circumstances. We do not expect the Turks to stop fully loaded illegal immigrant ships leaving the Black Sea; but if we learnt of a suspect ship without proper registration which proposed to enter the Black Sea to fetch illegal immigrants, we might very well wish to try and get the Turkish authorities to stop her entering the Black Sea on the ground that she was a flagless vessel.

In this latter case the embarrassing question of what to do with the passengers would not arise.

Yours ever,

EAST IN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,
British Embassy,
Angora.

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<p>37. 1833</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>L1833 /G 1111 31</p>
<p>L 1833 12/31/6 Consulate General Marseilles SI January 30th.</p>	<p>Suspect Shipping: Weekly Report</p>	
<p>Last Paper L146</p>	<p>(Minutes) Copy m15 rke</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>JD Eb. 10</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of) 8) M15 12 Feb</p>		
<p>(Action completed) 25/12</p>	<p>(Index) L/H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

34092

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Group.....FO
Class.....371.....
Piece...68516..

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Group.....FO.....

Class.....371.....

Piece.....68516.....

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transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E1881/2/31

and closed until.....1999.....

***delete as necessary**

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group.....Fo.....
Class.....371.....
Piece.....68516.....

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E

1885

35

10 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1885/2/21

R. L. Spanght

Enclaves

6/1/48

24/4/48

3 7/2

10 -

SS 'Las Thompson'
R. L. Spanght letter of 14 Jan 24/4/48
re 'Las Thompson', by name of the
man off ship, returned to the vessel
with ^{sail} ~~protection~~ ^{for} a few days, for a
get on boat.

Last Paper.

1883

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Kenne w/transport
1, dig lam. P.O.
Herman Boboff
Robertson M.S.
(with E906)

Feb 13.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1886

(Minutes.)

Copy my transport

CO.

Cabinet office

M.S. (with E906)

usual names

Egyptian Dept.
G.M.D. 17/2.

J.B. Feb. 10

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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RWB/PW

BRITISH EMBASSY

244/9/118

1885 CAIRO

3rd February, 1948

10 FEB 1948

Dear Department,

Mayall's letter 244/1/48 of 14th January about the s.s. LAS TAMPLAS.

2. Chapman-Andrews has now called twice on the Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Royal Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with this vessel. On the first occasion he left an aide-memoire and Kamel Abdel Rahim Bey promised to look into the matter. When Chapman-Andrews called again, Kamel Abdel Rahim Bey said he had been in touch with the Governor at Alexandria who reported that the ship's agent was threatening legal proceedings for demurrage, &c. Whatever our secret information might be, the fact remained that the ship had been held up for three months at Alexandria, that she had an innocent cargo of rice aboard, and so far as the Egyptian authorities were concerned, was on her next voyage innocently bound for an Italian port. The Governor at Alexandria thought that the Egyptian Government could not hold this vessel without running a grave risk of having to pay heavy damages.

3. Kamel Abdel Rahim Bey then said that this question would have to be submitted to the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and that he would thus still be able to hold the vessel for a few more days but he felt convinced that no legal reason could be adduced for detaining the ship further and that in the circumstances, we were to expect the ship to sail shortly. It would be for the authorities at Genoa or whatever Italian port she was making for, to stop her next.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

/4..

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20

Yours ever,

RL Spearhart

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E

1886 38
10 FEB 1948Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E/886/2/31

Manney
Washington

3/5/48

2 Feb

10 -

Communist Agents aboard Pan Ship
document copy of New York Times article
by Herbert Goldstein concerning presence of
Communists aboard the Pan ship.

Review other press comments on
same.

Last Paper.

1885

References.

GP

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, -80

Mar 10

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

1888

26513 F.O.P.

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E 39

2nd February 1948

1386
10 FEB 1948

10 FEB 1948

2. This disclaimer has not prevented criticism from Zionist and pro-Zionist sources. The story is violently attacked by I.F. Stone in P.M. on the 2nd February in an article entitled "Debunking New York Times Smear of Jewish Refugees". The New York Times itself also published, on the same day, a telegram from Isaac Hamlin, General Secretary of the National Committee for Labour in Palestine, in which he stated that he was deeply shocked and astonished at the newspaper's widespread and prominent display of the obviously false and unfounded statements made by the British Foreign Office, which were a libelous insult on Jewish refugees and on the Zionist movement.

/ annual

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

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annual dinner of the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund. He said that the 15,000 passengers aboard the two ships had been carefully screened by Jewish Agency officials in Roumania and that noisy protests against their departure had been made by the Roumanian Jewish Communist press. Communist Jews in Roumania had indeed violently agitated against their voyage to Palestine on the ground that Roumanian Jews were needed to help build up the Roumanian Communist regime. He said that there were 50,000 candidates for the 15,000 places on the two vessels and that the selection of the successful applicants had been a long drawn out and most painstaking and painful process, carried out by the Jewish organizations themselves. He added that the suggestion that Communist agents had no other means of getting to Palestine than through all the hazards, hardships and uncertainties which all these ships went through was simply ludicrous. He also said that the dispute which had developed within the Jewish Agency over the movement of the PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT was not concerned with the nature of the passengers, but rather with the time of their sailing.

4. Speaking generally of the position of Jews in Roumania, Mr. Shertok said that Roumanian Jewry was a thrice ruined community. It had been ruined first by the regime of persecution and discrimination practiced by the pre-war anti-Semitic governments of Roumania. It had been ruined a second time, far more disastrously, by the satellite regime in Roumania during the war, and it was now most adversely affected a third time by the measures of nationalism introduced by the present Communist regime. It was true that the present Government of Roumania was not anti-Semitic, but anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in the masses of the Roumanian population. As a result of all these trends, he said, the economic position of most Roumanian Jews had become untenable. Their re-integration into the nation's economic life confronted the Roumanian Government with formidable difficulties, which were aggravated by the anti-Semitism

/of

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41

of the population, and to represent their wish to escape as a mere cloak for the dispatch of Communist agents to Palestine, was a cruel joke.

5. We are sending copies of this letter to Jerusalem and to the United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations at New York.

Yours ever,

sa Chancery

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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1948.

London Insists Communists Were Bound for Palestine

Officials Say Records Show That Many on
Seized Ship Were Active Party Agents
—Imply Soviet Inspired the Trip

By HERBERT L. MATTHEWS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The unauthorized Jewish immigrant ships Pan York and Pan Crescent, which sailed from behind the "Iron Curtain" for Palestine at the end of December, were carrying many Communist agents, according to official British sources.

One thousand of the 15,000 immigrants aboard spoke Russian, many belonged to militant Communist organizations, some may have been non-Jews and some had documents showing that they had served in Soviet forces during World War II, these sources say.

The immigrants on these vessels and on a number of others that sailed earlier from the Black Sea were collected and sent toward Palestine with the knowledge and sometimes with the active connivance of the Soviet Union and its satellites, according to British officials.

These statements are bound to cause dismay now that they are being made for the first time with

authoritative backing. No statement made here is made on the authority of this correspondent or of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Every statement comes from British official reports, ambassadorial, ministerial and military.

Much of this information has been made known to the State Department and the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington, but not all of it has yet reached Washington.

Some of it has been forwarded by the British to Moscow for its information.

The security precautions taken in advance by and on behalf of the immigrants of the Pan York and Pan Crescent were so thorough that British officials found it impossible to get direct positive evidence that any Russian-sponsored subversive elements were among the immigrants. In this connection, Communist elements are not necessarily considered subversive.

Nevertheless, the British have convinced themselves that large-scale Jewish immigration, far from being discouraged or prevented by Soviet satellite governments, has been deliberately encouraged by them. Since the British take it for granted that the satellites would not or could not pursue such a policy independently, they assume that the immigration is in accord with Soviet policy.

In the case of the Pan York and Pan Crescent, the Russian conditions are believed to have been that the ships would be released only if 1,000 Jewish Communists were included among the immigrants.

It seems that at the last moment Jews in Palestine tried to prevent or at least to delay the ships' departure. It was at this time that a quarrel within the Jewish Agency for Palestine, followed by the resignation of Dr. Moshe Sneh, security officer of the agency, took place. The Jewish Agency did not halt the ships.

From the British official reports it is possible to re-create the background and chronological development of events as the British understand them.

For at least two years Jews streamed steadily into Rumania from the Soviet Union. Since no one can go out of Russia without approval, the British take it for granted that Soviet authorities knew of this migration. Moreover, there is evidence to the effect that Soviet authorities occasionally put military transport at the disposal of Jewish leaders to facilitate this transit.

It is also asserted that many of these Russian Jews not only were among unauthorized immigrants to Palestine from Black Sea ports in the last two years but furthermore received priority over Jews from elsewhere in Europe. It is asserted that Jews were helped by the Russians and Rumanians to embark from Rumanian Black Sea ports as well as to get to Bulgaria. Although clearances to ordinary travelers are virtually impossible to get, these immigrants readily got exit clearances.

Prior to the sailing of the Pan York and the Pan Crescent, at least four ships with unauthorized immigrants left Rumanian and Bulgarian ports and three others left Yugoslav ports.

Camps have been in existence in Rumania, where paramilitary training has been given to would-be immigrants with the permission of the Soviet section of the Allied Control Council, it said, and a Ma-

Rumanian secret police was implicated with the tacit approval of Moscow.

Early in November, 1947, Dr. Sneh, a former leader of Haganah, conferred in Bucharest with Mr. Averbuch and Dr. J. J. Schwarz, European director of the American Joint Distribution Committee, according to the documents. The British think that was the time Dr. Sneh accepted Russian conditions for the sailing of the Pan York and the Pan Crescent.

On Nov. 15, British officials believe, a letter was read at a meeting of the Palestinian Jewish Communist party from a Jewish section of the Rumanian Communist party stating that the Rumanian Government would not hamper Jewish Communists who wished to leave for Palestine to strengthen the Communist movement there.

British information early in December was that Ana Pauker, Rumanian Communist leader and now Foreign Minister, was apparently opposed to this emigration from Rumania and was trying to stop it. However, the British surmise that, as the Pan York and the Pan Crescent were released from Constanta, a Rumanian port, and sailed mostly with Rumanians from Burgas, Bulgaria, Madame Pauker must have changed her mind or had it changed for her.

Received Fuel in Rumania

There was a long period when the two ships lay empty in Constanta. The Pan York got there Oct. 1 and the Pan Crescent Oct. 11, and they did not leave until Dec. 22. During that period repairs were made, the ships were refitted and each got forty tons of fuel oil from a Rumanian company under the Joint Russian-Rumanian Control.

Meanwhile, the immigrants had been lined up the customary way. Those wishing to go filed applications months before. Each was assigned to a local group leader, and the immigrants were told they would be notified when and how to leave. They were notified first that they would sail from Constanta.

On Dec. 20 a number of cattle-car trains from all parts of Rumania set out for Constanta, where most of the immigrants arrived Dec. 21 and 22. The next day they were told the plan had been altered and they would sail from Bulgaria. Some of the trains that had not reached Constanta were directed straight for the frontier and to Burgas. Those in Constanta left the morning of Dec. 24 for the Bulgarian frontier.

On the Rumanian side there was strict customs examination of all the immigrants, but, curiously enough, there was no search or intervention of any kind on the Bulgarian side or during the twenty-four-hour journey to Burgas, where the Jews arrived the morning of Dec. 26.

assigning him to a bunk, stating what sitting he was to eat at and detailing his general duties while on the ship. Each also received a metal identification disk on a string. Discipline was strict at all times.

Both ships sailed from Burgas on Dec. 26. They were boarded, unopposed, by the British Navy off Cyprus and thence escorted to Famagusta, where the debarkation took place Jan. 1.

Questioning Difficult

Then came the usual interrogation by British authorities. It was a difficult matter because the immigrants had to be debarked quickly and could not be segregated afterward. Security during the train journey and the sea voyage had been so highly organized that there was not much to find. The orders had been to destroy all documents, and Haganah leaders gave repeated warnings about documents and about talking to the British.

Nevertheless, a number of documents were discovered. Among them were membership cards of the Union of Communist Youth in Rumania, the Rumanian Communist party, the Lenin United Communist Association, the Union of Female Anti-Fascists and the Universal Democratic Front.

All these bodies, it is asserted, are militant Communist organizations. Moreover, a number of Communist handbooks were found. As was previously stated, some of the documents showed that certain passengers had served in Russian forces during the war.

Also, about 1,000 of the immigrants spoke Russian, according to the British, who acknowledged that they have no means of confirming their suspicions that some of these were non-Jews.

Most of the immigrants were Rumanians. There were relatively few Hungarians, Bulgarians or Germans.

This correspondent repeats: Every statement in this dispatch is based on British official reports. None is made on the authority of this correspondent or of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

By HERBERT L. MATTHEWS
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thorized Jewish immigrant ships ment made here is made on the
Pan York and Pan Crescent, which authority of this correspondent or
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tion, Communist elements are not
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In the case of the Pan York and
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It seems that at the last moment
Jews in Palestine tried to prevent
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knew of this migration. Moreover,
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It is also asserted that many of
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Camps have been in existence
in Rumania, where paramilitary
training has been given to would-
be immigrants with the permission
of the Soviet section of the Allied
Control Council, it said, and a Ma-
jor Levy of the Soviet section has
been publicly engaged in Jewish
extremist activities in Rumania.

Major Levy was said to have
been in constant contact with Josef
Klarman and Moshe Averbuch,
who have been implicated in this
immigration. Mr. Averbuch was
connected with Haganah, Zionist
militia. It is believed that the

Rumanian secret police was im-
plicated with the tacit approval of
Moscow.

Early in November, 1947, Dr.
Sneh, a former leader of Haganah,
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On the Rumanian side there was
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tervention of any kind on the Bul-
garian side or during the twenty-
four-hour journey to Burgas, where
the Jews arrived the morning of
Dec. 26.

The embarkation had been re-
markably well organized. The Jews
stayed in their trains from the mo-
ment they crossed the Bulgarian
frontier until they boarded the
ships. Bulgarian officials kept out
of sight even in Burgas, although
dock authorities were said to have
been helpful.

Each immigrant received a card

assigning him to a bunk, stating
what sitting he was to eat at and
detailing his general duties while
on the ship. Each also received a
metal identification disk on a
string. Discipline was strict at all
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Both ships sailed from Burgas
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Rumania, the Rumanian Commu-
nist party, the Lenin United Com-
munist Association, the Union of
Female Anti-Fascists and the
Universal Democratic Front.

All these bodies, it is asserted,
are militant Communist organiza-
tions. Moreover, a number of
Communist handbooks were found.
As was previously stated, some of
the documents showed that certain
passengers had served in Russian
forces during the war.

Also, about 1,000 of the immi-
grants spoke Russian, according
to the British, who acknowledged
that they have no means of con-
firming their suspicions that some
of these were non-Jews.

Most of the immigrants were
Rumanians. There were relatively
few Hungarians, Bulgarians or
Germans.

This correspondent repeats:
Every statement in this dispatch
is based on British official reports.
None is made on the authority of
this correspondent or of THE
NEW YORK TIMES.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO 371 68516

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group.....FO.....
Class.....371.....
Piece.....6851.6....

Following document(s) retained
in the Department of origin
under Section 3 (4) of the
Public Records Act, 1958

E1897/2/BIG

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE											
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Reference:-

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121

E

E 1959

43

1948

PALESTINE

11 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

E 1959/2/31

FROM

Glennary

No.

Washington

Dated

3/6/48

Received
in Registry

4 Feb

11 -

Communist Agents aboard 'Pan' ships.
Refer to 'Pan' letter 3/55/48 (E1886/2/31)

Documents various press reports re Communist Agents
aboard 'Pan' ships.

Encloses column by Margaret Hildes in
'Washington Post' of Feb. 4.

Last Paper.

1954

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

See E 1965 & action

JB Feb. 21

(Action
completed.)

9/2/4

(Index.)

1/2/48

Next Paper.

1965

26513 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68516

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11 FEB 1948

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

4th February 1948

Please refer to our letter 3/55/48 of the 2nd February about the presence of Communists aboard the PAN YORK and the PAN CRESCENT.

3. This question was also referred to by Marquis Childs in his column in the Washington Post of the 4th February, a copy of which is enclosed. In brief he attributed the story about the presence of Communist agents on the ships to the fear of the British Government, and particularly of the Secretary of State, that Palestine was well on the way to becoming a Communist state. He urged that the whole question should be

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
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FO 371 68516

FO 371 68516

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4. We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Chancery

Chancery

[Signature]

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FO 371/68516

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Class.....371.....
Piece.....68516.....

E 1965/2/31
E 1981 " "

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FO 371/68516

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135

1940

E

E 1980

11 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

E1986/2/1

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

last 9m 4p 1

Dated

12/1/48

Received
in Registry

12/1/48

Last Paper.

1982

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. J. P.
Feb
1/1. Home no 161
Ref.
Feb 12/48

(Action
completed.)

J. P. H. 1/6/48

(Index.)

A. S. H. 1/6/48

Next Paper.

2051

Whole of 1982 in 1982
After 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982
1982 in 1982 in 1982

(Minutes.)

Copy Ridge rope
Refugee Dept. JB Feb. 11

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Reference: FO 371/68516					
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E 1980

11 FEB 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Cypher/OTP

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel D. 12.15 a.m. 11th February, 1948
No. 658
10th February, 1948. R. 5.27 a.m. 11th February, 1948

CONFIDENTIAL

Chancery letter to Eastern Department of 31st January about the activities of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Italy.

State Department inform us that although United States Embassy in Rome had heard numerous rumours about implication of American Joint Distribution Committee in illegal immigration activities, they had not been able to obtain enough information to substantiate British allegations. In two instances of illegal movements last September the U.J.D.C. seemed to have kept clear.

2. In any case United States Embassy in Rome considered that illegal immigrant traffic was falling off owing to more effective border control by the Italians and to stricter requirements for registration in Italy. Moreover, according to United States Intelligence sources, the movement of Jews in the Bolzano area was almost at a standstill and embarkations at Genoa had nearly ceased.

3. United States Embassy in Rome did not therefore feel that there were sufficient grounds to justify an approach to the Italian Government at present, although they would try to obtain reliable information.

4. State Department might be prepared to take action if further ammunition could be provided. It would be useful, if as suggested in Chancery letter under reference, His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome were to pass on to his United States colleague any concrete information which might come his way.

[Copy sent to U.S. Secretariat].

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137

E

E 2060

49

1948

13 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2060/2/21

Legation

Sofia

57

14 Feb

13

Illegal Immigration

Refer Sofia tel 161 (E1637/2/21) transmit
copy of letter of Bulgarian Minister dated 14
Feb 1927/21/48. Suggesting that certain
information re Bulgarian Jews cleared from
where was being received from him. And having
attained it information that a further 1500 Bulgarian
Jews are being collected for dispatch to Palestine

Last Paper.

2051

References.

(Minutes.)

Southern Dept. J.P. 17/2

copy 30
mis

usual names

JD Feb. 13

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8 Higham. 80
Robertson. 14.15
Feb 14

(Action
completed.)

J.P. 17/2

(Index.)

J.P. 17/2

Next Paper.

2086

E26513 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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HIS Majesty's Minister at Sofia
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

E 2060

4th February, 1948

Reference to previous correspondence:

13 FEB 1948

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

Letter from British Minister
to Bulgarian Minister for
Foreign Affairs dated
4th February 1948.

Jewish Illegal
Immigration.

Copies have also been sent to:

Washington	No. 22
Bucharest	11
U.K. Del. New York	3
Jerusalem	2

[illegible]

British Legation,
Sofia.

27/31/48

4th February, 1948.

PERSONAL AND IMMEDIATE

My dear Minister,

With reference to my Note No. 57 of January 31st, regarding the utilisation of Bulgarian ports for the illegal immigration traffic into Palestine, I feel sure that the true facts about this traffic have been misrepresented to Your Excellency or are being concealed from you by the authorities directly concerned. Apart from the question of the travel documents held by the passengers in the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York", I have reason to believe, for instance, that, in spite of what is said in paragraph 3 of your letter of January 10th, some Bulgarian Jews were included among those passengers.

I cannot therefore ignore a report which has just reached me to the effect that a further contingent of about 1,500 Bulgarian Jews is being collected at this moment in Bulgaria for despatch to Palestine from a Bulgarian or a Roumanian port and that this contingent is under orders to be ready to leave within the next day or two.

Although I am not in a position to confirm this report I feel bound to draw Your Excellency's attention to it since I feel sure that you will wish to institute urgent enquiries into its truth. I trust moreover that, in view of the reported imminence of the proposed exodus, you will be able to ensure, without awaiting the result of your enquiries, that all possible precautionary measures are taken to prevent the departure of any such contingent.

Believe me, my dear Minister,

Yours very sincerely,

His Excellency,
Monsieur Vassil Kolarov,
Vice President of the Council of Ministers
& Minister for Foreign Affairs. SOFIA.

(SGD) J. C. STERNDAL-BENNETT

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E 2086

13 FEB 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2086/2/21

Legation

Akhia

5-5

31 Jan
13 Feb

9 (Legal Immigration)
 Refer 4061 113 (E2086/2/21) transmit copy
 of letter to Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs
 dated 31 Jan. 1948 re legal immigration
 from Bulgarian ports.

Last Paper.

2060

References.

(Minutes.)

Southern Dept.
 W.N. (P.O.) Dept.

Copy co. 1 and
 15 names

JIS Feb. 13

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Higham. 80
 Robertson n.s.
 Feb 14

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

9/2/48
 9/2/48

20/11/48

Next Paper.

2087

26513 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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54

Sofia.

No. 57 (27/28/48)

31st. January, 1948.

Your Excellency,

The contents of Your Excellency's note No. 12156-37-I of January 10th were at once conveyed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from whom I have now received instructions to protest strongly on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom against the recent attempts at illegal immigration into Palestine which have been made from Bulgarian ports.

2 Your Excellency's note states that the emigrants who embarked at Bourgas in the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" were duly authorised by the Bulgarian authorities to cross Bulgaria in transit for this purpose, since they held "regular passports for their emigration to Panama" which the Bulgarian Government had neither reason nor interest to question.

3 I feel sure that Your Excellency, in making this remarkable statement cannot have been personally aware either of the previous cases of the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" or of the repeated warnings given to the Bulgarian Government about the intended use of the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" in the illegal immigration traffic to Palestine.

4. As long ago as August 20th 1947 this Negation began to invite the cooperation of the Bulgarian Government in preventing the use of Bulgarian ports for this traffic. The invitation was conveyed in Note Verbale No. 159 in relation to the approach to the Black Sea of the vessel "Paducah" which duly arrived at Varna on August 22nd and later went to Bourgas.

5. A similar invitation was contained in the Legation's Note Verbale No. 180 of September 13th in regard to the impending arrival of the "Northlands". By September 24th this vessel had joined the "Paducah" at Bourgas.

6. Meanwhile in its Note Verbale No. 41289-20-II of September 2nd the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Legation that adequate measures had been immediately taken to prohibit the embarkation on, or disembarkation from, the "Paducah"; and when the Legation heard that a considerable number of would-be Jewish immigrants had left Bucharest for a Bulgarian port they at once brought this information to the knowledge of the Bulgarian Government in their Note Verbale No. 193, of September 24th, in which they asked for an assurance in regard to the "Northlands" similar to that which they had been happy to receive in the case of the "Paducah".

7. This time, however, no such assurance was forthcoming. On the contrary, in spite of the assurance of September 2nd, both the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" left Bulgarian waters on or about September 27th laden with Jewish passengers. The Bulgarian authorities sought to justify their failure to prevent this by oral explanations to the effect that the passengers claimed to be proceeding to destinations other than Palestine and that their papers were in order for this purpose. No reply has ever been received from the Ministry to the

/Legation's

**His Excellency,
Monsieur Vassil Kolarov,
Vice President of the Council of Ministers,
and Minister for Foreign Affairs,
SOFIA.**

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Legation's enquiry regarding the country or countries for which the Jews in question had valid visas.

8. The hollowness of the above claim and the falsity of any papers which may have been produced in support of it were quickly demonstrated by the fact that the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" proceeded direct from Bulgaria to Palestine. On arrival in Palestinian waters the "Paducah" was found to be carrying 1385 would-be illegal immigrants and the "Northlands" 2264. It was established that these persons had entered Bulgaria by train. Most of them had embarked at Bourgas and the remainder at Varna.

9. These facts were brought to the notice of Your Excellency's predecessor in my letter of October 17th.

10. Meanwhile I had already in my Notes Verbales No 227 of October 1st and No. 257 of October 11th warned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the possibility that further attempts to embark at Bulgarian ports would be illegal immigrants for Palestine were likely to be made by the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York". In these written communications and in conversations with Your Excellency's predecessor on October 2nd and October 15th I drew attention to the grave situation in Palestine and to the complications which these attempts at illegal immigration were likely to cause and I once more asked for the co-operation of the Bulgarian Government. In my letter of October 17th I reminded Monsieur Kimon Georgiev of the suspected activities of the "Pan Crescent" and "Pan York" and on the specific instructions of His Majesty's Government I impressed upon His Excellency the particular importance which His Majesty's Government attached to preventing the departure of these two vessels with illegal immigrants for Palestine. While giving an assurance that none of the intended passengers could possibly be in possession of a valid permit to enter Palestine, I asked that special steps should be taken to investigate the genuineness and validity of any documents or visas which might purport to indicate that the ships or the passengers were proceeding to a destination other than Palestine.

11. In our oral discussion regarding the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" Monsieur Kimon Georgiev represented to me the difficulty which the Bulgarian Government might have in making such investigations in the case of emigrants who claimed to be proceeding to countries with which Bulgaria had no direct diplomatic relations. I should like therefore to place on record that I promptly offered the services of His Majesty's Government as an intermediary for any enquiries of this nature which the Bulgarian Government might wish to make.

12. In a letter of December 24th I communicated to Your Excellency reports which had just reached me that the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" had left Constantinople on December 22nd and December 23rd respectively and that a considerable number of Jews desiring to enter Palestine were, or had recently been, in course of transit by road or rail from Roumania to Bulgarian ports. I again specifically made it clear that none of these Jews could possibly be in possession of a valid permit to enter Palestine and I urged that any claim that they were being transhipped to any other destination ought to be the subject of most searching investigation in view of the wide ramifications of the illegal immigration traffic.

13. Confirmation that the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" had arrived at Bourgas was speedily forthcoming and I so informed Your Excellency in my letter of December 27th in which I communicated a report that, on December 25th, as many as 12,000 would-be illegal immigrants into Palestine were passing in transit from Roumania to Bulgarian ports by train.

14. The two ships are understood to have left Bourgas on December 27th. Like the "Paducah" and the "Northlands" they proceeded direct towards Palestine. They were intercepted by British Naval vessels as they were about to enter Palestinian waters carrying in all 15,256 passengers. It has been established that all these passengers embarked at Bourgas.

15. In face of all the warnings and requests for collaboration recapitulated above and of the obvious fact that a mass move of Jews was afoot, The Bulgarian Government cannot fairly claim that they had no reason to question the genuine nature of any travel documents proffered by persons endeavouring

/to embark

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FO 371 68516					
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to embark in the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York". There are, moreover, numerous precedents for mass moves of this kind to Palestine (the traffic has received world-wide publicity) but there is not one precedent for such a move to Panama. Furthermore, His Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the passengers were not in possession of regular passports when they entered Bulgaria but that their names figured on collective lists. His Majesty's Government believe, also, that there is no Panamanian representative in the countries from which the passengers originated who is authorised to issue visas at all events without reference to the Panamanian Government - a step which would have exposed at once the illegality of the movement.

16. It is difficult therefore to suppose that the Bulgarian Government were ignorant of the real nature and purpose of these Jews, who were aiming to break the laws of Palestine.

17. It is equally difficult to suppose that the Bulgarian Government were ignorant of the United Nations appeal for the avoidance of any action likely to exacerbate the critical situation in Palestine and to precipitate an Arab-Jewish conflict. I am instructed to point out that the implication in Your Excellency's note of January 10th that the action of the Bulgarian Government in this matter had been described in my letter of December 27th as an infringement of the United Nations Charter is entirely without foundation and is therefore irrelevant. While His Majesty's Government reserve the right to deal separately if necessary with Your Excellency's further remarks about the non-admission of Bulgaria into the United Nations, they decline to be drawn into discussion of that subject in the present connection. Your Excellency's note of January 10th does not deny the incontestable fact, stated in my letter of December 27th, that the illegal immigration traffic on the scale planned in the "Pan Crescent" and the "Pan York" was particularly reprehensible at a moment when the United Nations had made their recommendations for the future of Palestine and negotiations for the transfer of authority were about to begin. In any case, if Bulgaria aspires to membership of the United Nations His Majesty's Government feel bound to suggest that the Bulgarian Government would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the activities of that organisation and with the obligations which its members are called upon to undertake.

18. From the evidence available, His Majesty's Government can only conclude that in the four cases of the "Paducah", the "Northlands", the "Pan York" and the "Pan Crescent" the Bulgarian Government have either been deliberately conniving at illegal immigration traffic or that a serious error has been committed by the Bulgarian officials concerned. In the latter case they trust that active and effective steps will be taken by the Bulgarian Government to prevent any further despatch from Bulgarian territory and ports of persons who may be endeavouring to enter Palestine illegally.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(SGD) J. C. STERNDAL-BENNETT

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129

E

E 2087

13 FEB 1948

1948

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2087/2/31

J.H. Gham

L.O.

76021/414/48

J.H. Gham

11 Feb

17

SS HAS THINPAA

Transmit copy of letter of M. Secretary of 11 Feb
rearranging conditions needed at 60 meeting on 20 Jan.
J.H. Gham agreed that if M. Secretary could arrange to
take over the "has" samples by means of a bene-
volent agreement, (I would be able to recommend their
attitude towards the "M. Secretary" and by-pass
any other discussion and M. Secretary agreed to keep
in informed as negotiations to charter them to J.R.O.

Last Paper.

2086

(Minutes.)

JB Feb. 13

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

2155

26513 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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J. G. S. Beith, Esq.
Foreign Office.

ended

58

76021/46A/E 2087

Mr. J. D. Hignah

11th February 1948

13 FEB 1948

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The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

76021/46A/48

11th February, 1948. 59

MR. LAS TAAPLAS

Dear Mr. Secretan,

I promised to let you have a note embodying the conclusions we reached at our meeting at the Colonial Office on the 3rd January.

2. We agreed, I think, that if you could arrange to take over the Las Taaplas, by means of a bare-boat agreement which would give you complete control of the ship until the 15th May, we should then be able to reconsider our attitude towards her.

3. We also discussed two other ships, the Medina and the Cypress, and you agreed to keep us informed of the negotiations in progress to charter them to the I.R.C. and of the terms of the charter agreements ultimately concluded.

(J.D. Higham)

C.P. GEORGE TAN, MBE.
53 Billiter Buildings, 22 Billiter St, London E.C.3.

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WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

6th February 1948

Ref: 3/64/48

Dear Department,

16. ELB (443)
Please refer to our letter 3/61/48 of the 4th February about remarks attributed to Sir Godfrey Collins, Commissioner for the Jewish camps in Cyprus, concerning the question of Communists aboard the PAN YORK and PAN CRESCENT.

2. The New York Times reported on its front page on 6th February a denial by Sir Godfrey Collins of the remarks attributed to him, and quoted a Colonial Office spokesman to the following effect:

"Sir Godfrey Collins stated that the local correspondent of The Palestine Post informed him that Mr. (Herbert L.) Matthews of The New York Times had stated that there were 1,000 Communists on the ships and that Communist literature had been found on them, and asked whether Sir Godfrey knew this. Sir Godfrey said he had no information on the subject.

"He made no denial, and the correspondent was aware of this. Sir Godfrey was also unaware that this statement that he had no information would be used as a Reuters message misconstruing it into an official denial."

3. The pro-Zionist press continues violently to attack the evidence which has been published, and to suggest that the Foreign Office are trying to prevent partition by playing upon the United States Administration's fear of Communism.

4. We are sending a copy of this letter to Jerusalem.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office
London, S.W.1.

Yours ever,

Chancery

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1948

E

E 2172

LESTINE

16 FEB 1948

Registry
Number } E 2172/2/51

TELEGRAM FROM

No. *III* *breadmeat*

Dated 1 June 1965

Received } 92.
in Registry } 14, 7/6
11

2140000 Immigration
 leading members of Syrian Committee for Abolition of Political
 and that ten days ago a ship of 120 tons named "Imray"
 sailing flying the French flag had loaded 250 armed
 2140000 Syrian Immigration on Lebanese coast near Sidon.
 She was one of the regularly engaged in transporting
 Syrians from Roumanian coast and would probably
 be returning shortly

Last Paper.

2169

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, J.P.P.
Feb 16

Ref. Dampers 109
Rtd. Beirut 132
RMLCO 170
Feb 24

8, 99P
Feb 27

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

2174

(Minutes.)

we cannot be expected to stop
the traffic if it passes through
a neighbouring country like
the Lebanon. And Syria might
surely take this sort of thing
up direct with her twin
& co-members of the Arab League
State // with whom she is
at present on bad terms :
hence, probably, this sneaking)
Dratt tel. to [unclear]

J. S. Deins
Feb. 16

~~44~~
L. C. L. Pyman
19/2

I have revised the draft
Pt. 40 if C.C. concurs.

30.471 F.O.P.

The

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371 / 68516

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18 JUL 68

The in tl. should be repeated
to Jerusalem.

好了

21-2

Co. Connor : tel. is being repeated by ~~them~~ JB Feb. 24

BAR 5

24. ✓

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Reference:-
FO 371 / 68516

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Cypher/CTP

DEPARTMENTAL

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE E 2172

Mr. Broadhead
No. 92

February 14th, 1948.

D. 9.45 a.m. February 14th, 1948.
A. 10.47 a.m. February 14th, 1948.

Repeated to Beirut, British Middle East Office Cairo,
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 92 of
February 14th, repeated to Beirut, British Middle East
Office Cairo, Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

A leading member of the Syrian Committee for the
Liberation of Palestine to-day came to see Oriental
Secretary to give him information which he hoped would
be of use to His Majesty's Government in prevention of
illegal immigration into Palestine. He said that ten
days ago a ship of 120 tons named Mary Allie flying the
French flag and with a French captain had landed 200
armed illegal Jewish immigrants on Lebanese coast south
Saida. Ship was one of two (no details were available
of second) regularly engaged in transporting Jews from
Rumanian ports and would probably be returning shortly.

Foreign Office please pass to Commander-in-Chief
Mediterranean.

[Copies sent to War Registry Admiralty for
Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean]

SSSSS

63

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

FO 371 68516

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E 2172/2/31

B.A.B.B.

Draft.

Damascus.

Telegram.

No. 109

Dated. 1. 1. 1948

Repeat to:

Beirut

Jerusalem

B.M.E.O.

C. in S. Med.

Dept. 1

Cypher

Co. Concur
and are
repeating tel.
under reply
to Jerusalem

21. Beirut
Feb. 24

February, 1948.
Despatched M.
Addressed to Damascus No. 109 of
February 24th. Repeated for in-
formation to Beirut, Jerusalem, B.M.E.O.
and C. in C., Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 92 [of February
14th: illegal immigration].

We clearly have no locus standi for
taking action with regard to shipping
between Roumania and the Lebanon, and
you should, if you think it appropriate,
make this clear to your informant.
We are repeating your telegram to the
High Commissioner at Jerusalem in order
that he may take any appropriate action
on Palestine-Lebanese frontier.

BAB

24. 2

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
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FO 371/68516

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Cypher/OTP
E 2172/2/31.
Confidential.

65
DEPARTMENTAL.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO DAMASCUS.

No. 109.

24th February, 1948. D. 1.15 p.m. 25th February, 1948.

Repeated to Beirut No. 182, Jerusalem via C.O.,
British Middle East Office No. 170, C-in-C Mediterranean
via Admiralty.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Addressed to Damascus No. 109 of February 24th,
repeated for information to Beirut, Jerusalem,
British Middle East Office and C-in-C Mediterranean.

Your telegram No. 92 [of February 14th: illegal
immigration].

We clearly have no locus standi for taking
action with regard to shipping between Roumania and
the Lebanon, and you should, if you think it appropriate,
make this clear to your informant. We are repeating
your telegram to the High Commissioner at Jerusalem
in order that he may take any appropriate action on
Palestine-Lebanese frontier.

G:O

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1					
FO 371 68516					
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E

E 2174

1948

PALESTINE

16 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

E2174/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

General

Dated

Janis

Received
in Registry

11

15 Feb

16

Illegal immigration
"CLASSIFIED" card received Janis Feb 12 from the
with 255 tons mixed cargo and "EFISIA" ship
arrived Feb 1, now loading from ship. Not at all
informed.

Last Paper.

2172

References.

(Minutes.)

Western Sept.

JB Feb. 16

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, 9, 10 P
Feb 16 on E2172

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

J. E. Brown

M. J. Jones

Next Paper.

2193

30471 K.O.P

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-
FO 371/68516

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DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM TUNIS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

His Majesty's
Consul-General
No. 11

D: 6.30 p.m. 13th February, 1948

13th February, 1948

R: 9.30 p.m. 13th February, 1948

Illegal Jewish Immigrants.

Massimino Ciro arrived Tunis February 12th from
Marseilles with 258 tons of mixed cargo and Efisia Serra
arrived February 1st now loading iron scrap. Commanders in-
Chief Mediterranean informed.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE									
1	2	3	4	5	6				
		1			2				

Reference - **FO 371/68516**

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146

E

68

1948

2193

16 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

E2193/2/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

beard general

Dated

15.4.6

Received
in Registry

2.11

15.4.6

16

Last Paper.

2174

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8.9.1

Feb 16th on E2172(Action
completed.)

(Index)

G.L.M.D. 1/4

24/1/48

Next Paper.

222

(Minutes.)

She has a legitimate cargo
for Genoa. We shall have
to watch her after that.
We have not relaxed our
measures against her: the
present departure is due
to the Egyptian Govt's
refusal to hold the ship
any longer.

Egyptian Govt.
G.L.M.D. 1/2.

15 Feb. 46

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference:-

FO 371/68516

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM ALEXANDRIA TO FOREIGN OFFICE

E 2190

His Majesty's
Consul-General
No. 2A

15th February, 1948

D: 5.00 p.m. 15th February 1948

R: 3.52 p.m. 15th February, 1948

Repeated to: Cairo

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 2A of
15th February repeated to Cairo.

Illegal Jewish immigrant. Las Tamplas expected to
sail February 16th but is still flying Panamanian flag.

G G G G

E 69
END

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6
FO 371/68516					
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